



JB Pritzker, Governor
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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Up, Jobs Down in February for Every Metro Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	February 2021*	February 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.1%	2.8%	2.3
Carbondale-Marion	5.9%	3.2%	2.7
Champaign-Urbana	5.0%	2.7%	2.3
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	8.8%	3.7%	5.1
Danville	6.9%	4.1%	2.8
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	6.1%	4.1%	2.0
Decatur	8.4%	4.4%	4.0
Elgin	7.0%	4.1%	2.9
Kankakee	7.5%	4.7%	2.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.1%	3.9%	2.2
Peoria	7.0%	4.2%	2.8
Rockford	9.7%	4.9%	4.8
Springfield	6.2%	3.3%	2.9
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.6%	3.2%	2.4
Illinois Statewide	7.8%	3.7%	4.1
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – The number of nonfarm jobs decreased over-the-year in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas in February, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The unemployment rate increased over-the-year in all metro areas. The official, BLS approved sub-state unemployment rate and nonfarm jobs series begins in 1990. Data reported prior to 1990 are not directly comparable due to updates in methodology.

“As expected, the global, national, and state impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are still very present and the effects continue to linger on the economy and the workforce,” said **Deputy Governor Dan Hynes**. “This is why the Pritzker administration is grateful the federal government acted quickly to roll out the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act with critical extensions and program continuity, and why IDES is committed to transitioning claimants between programs as seamlessly as possible to ensure individuals receive as little disruption to services during this uncertain period.”

The number of nonfarm jobs decreased in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas. The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan

Division (-8.8%, -330,200), the Elgin Metro Division (-8.2%, -21,000) and the Kankakee MSA (-8.1%, -3,700). Three metro areas recorded their lowest total nonfarm jobs for the month of February on record (dating back to 1990).

Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in all 14 metropolitan areas; the metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division (+5.1 points to 8.8%), the Rockford MSA (+4.8 points to 9.7%) and the Decatur MSA (+4.0 points to 8.4%). The not seasonally adjusted Illinois unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in February 2021. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in February 2021.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) –February 2021

Metropolitan Area	February 2021*	February 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	86,200	92,500	-6,300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	53,100	56,400	-3,300
Champaign-Urbana MSA	114,900	117,900	-3,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,431,400	3,761,600	-330,200
Danville MSA	25,900	26,900	-1,000
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	171,900	183,100	-11,200
Decatur MSA	45,900	49,600	-3,700
Elgin Metro Division	234,300	255,300	-21,000
Kankakee MSA	41,700	45,400	-3,700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	386,600	412,300	-25,700
Peoria MSA	155,400	168,200	-12,800
Rockford MSA	136,200	146,800	-10,600
Springfield MSA	100,300	107,100	-6,800
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	224,200	236,500	-12,300
Illinois Statewide	5,590,000	6,044,400	-454,400
*Preliminary **Revised			

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

Labor Market Area	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	Over the Year Change
Bloomington MSA			
De Witt County	5.8 %	3.4 %	2.4
McLean County	5.1 %	2.8 %	2.3
Peoria MSA			
Marshall County	7.2 %	4.6 %	2.6
Peoria County	8.2 %	4.6 %	3.6
Stark County	6.6 %	5.2 %	1.4
Tazewell County	6.0 %	4.0 %	2.0
Woodford County	4.8 %	3.1 %	1.7
Ottawa-Streator Area	7.1 %	4.9 %	2.2
Bureau County	6.3 %	4.6 %	1.7
LaSalle County	7.4 %	5.0 %	2.4
Putnam County	6.5 %	5.7 %	0.8
Galesburg Area			
Knox County	7.3 %	4.3 %	3.0
Cities			
Bloomington City	5.5 %	2.9 %	2.6
Galesburg City	7.8 %	4.2 %	3.6
Normal town	4.7 %	2.4 %	2.3
Pekin City	6.9 %	4.4 %	2.5
Peoria City	8.6 %	4.4 %	4.2
Counties & Areas			
Fulton County	7.0 %	5.3 %	1.7
Hancock County	5.5 %	4.3 %	1.2
Henderson County	5.3 %	4.7 %	0.6
Henry County	6.0 %	4.4 %	1.6
Livingston County	6.0 %	3.6 %	2.4
Logan County	5.3 %	3.5 %	1.8
Mason County	6.6 %	4.9 %	1.7
Warren County	5.2 %	3.2 %	2.0
LWIA 14	5.4 %	3.5 %	1.9

Central Illinois Highlights

Bloomington MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.1 percent in February 2021 from 2.8 percent in February 2020.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by -6,300 compared to one year ago. The largest declines were reported in Leisure-Hospitality (-2,100), Government (-1,700), and Professional-Business Services (-800). Wholesale Trade (+200) had payroll gains over the year.

Peoria MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.0 percent in February 2021 from 4.2 percent in February 2020.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by -12,800 compared to one year ago. The largest declines were reported in Leisure-Hospitality (-4,800), Manufacturing (-1,900), Professional-Business Services (-1,900), and Government (-1,500). Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400) had payroll gains over the year.

Ottawa-Streator Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.1 percent in February 2021 from 4.9 percent in February 2020. Over the year, nonfarm payrolls decreased by -2,750 compared to a year ago. Leisure-Hospitality (-525), Manufacturing (-450), Educational-Health Services (-450), and Government (-300) posted the largest declines.

Galesburg Area-Knox County: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.3 percent in February 2021 from 4.3 percent in February 2020. Nonfarm payroll employment decreased by -1,100. The largest declines were reported in Government (-400), Educational-Health Services (-375), and Leisure-Hospitality (-300) sectors from a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+225) had payroll gains over the year.

Pontiac Area-Livingston County: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.0 percent in February 2021 from 3.6 percent in February 2020.

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased by -750. Information (-200), Manufacturing (-175), Leisure-Hospitality (-125) and Government (-125) posted the largest declines from a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+50) had payroll gains over the year.

Note: Monthly 2020 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2021, as required by the U.S. BLS. Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid. The official monthly unemployment rate series for metro areas, counties and most cities begins in 1990. The official monthly nonfarm jobs series for metro areas begins in 1990 and for non-metropolitan counties it begins in 1999.

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